been sanctioned to the Government of Gujarat for the following projects:

1. Construction of Portable Dwelling Units at Kutch (Mandvi)
2. Development of Dholaveer.

**Development of Eco-Tourism**

1537. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not shown any enthusiam for developing Eco-
tourism;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the natural service spots in the country would attract tourists;

(d) if so, the reasons for neglecting this sector;

(e) whether any discussion have taken place with State Governments in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) The Government policy is to develop Eco-tourism in the country. Eco-tourism projects proposed by the State/Union Territory Governments are provided Central financial assistance on the basis of their inter-se priority and subject to availability of funds.

Ministry of Tourism has formulated the Eco-Tourism Policy and Guidelines which has been endorsed by all State Governments and Union Territories.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Proposals of Eco-tourism projects are discussed with State Governments. The subject was an agenda item in the State Tourism Minister's Conference in June, 1997, which endorsed the Eco-Tourism Policy and Guidelines. These were finally released in the State Tourism Minister's Conference in August, 1998.

**Promotion of Tourism in Coastal Areas of Gujarat**

1538. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme/proposal for the promotion of tourism in the coastal areas of Gujarat is under consideration of Government.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scheme/proposal have been approved by Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Touirism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 30.00 lakhs for construction of Portable Dwelling Units at Kutch (Mandvi) during the current financial year. The proposal submitted by the State Government for the Beach Development of Mandvi was not as per the guidelines laid down by the Ministry of Tourism. Therefore, the Ministry of Tourism has asked the State Government of Gujarat to submit a proposal.

**Development of Tourism in Assam**

1539. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total revenue earned by Government from the tourism sector, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that discriminatory treatment has been adopted by Government with regard to development of the tourist places in the State of Assam;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) The tax revenue earned by the Central Government by way of expenditure tax during 1998-99 (upto January 1999) is Rs. 323.78 crores. The State-wise figures are not available.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Ministry of Tourism has enhanced the financial assistance to State Government of Assam for tourism development and publicity of its tourist attractions has been given wider coverage. While the financial assistance sanctioned to the State during 1996-97 was Rs. 155.% lakhs, it was increased to Rs. 288.88 lakhs during 1997-98.

**Projects for Promotion of Tourism**

1540. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for promotion of tourism in the country during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent on various projects during this period, State-wise;

(c) the State-wise details of major projects undertaken during the last three years; and

(d) the present status of the projects undertaken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (d) For the promotion and development of tourism in the country, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to State Government for construction of budget accommodation, Yatri Niwases, Wayside Amenities, Public Conveniences, Refurbishment of Heritage Monuments, Purchase of Adventure Sports Equipment, Fairs and Festivals, Printing of Publicity material and Brochures.

Besides the projects taken up under the Central Financial Assistance, State Governments take up projects from their State budgets. The details of State-wise central financial assistance extended during the last three years are annexed in the Statement *(See* below)

Release of funds are done in a phased manner based on utilization of the funds by the State Government.

**Statement**

*State Wise Central Financial Assistance Sanction/Released During the Last Three Years*

(Rs. In lakhs)

| Sl. No | State | 1995-96 | | 1996-97 | | 1997-98 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Amt. Sancd. | Amt. Relsd. | Amt. Saned. | Amt. Relsd. | Amt. Saned. | Amt. Relsd. |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 14.52 | 10.99 | 125.50 | 20.37 | 206.70 | 69.10 |
| 2. | Assam | 70.24 | 39.00 | 155.96 | 32.66 | 288.88 | 94.20 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 52.26 | 25.50 | 2.00 | 1.75 | 271.00 | 82.50 |
| 4. | Bihar | 115.84 | 53.53 | 72.53 | 18.22 | 233.07 | 76.38 |
| 5. | Goa | 221.55 | 121.32 | 101.46 | 50.98 | 144.62 | 42.08 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 7.98 | 7.28 | 82.21 | 35.12 | 111.84 | 41.90 |
| 7. | Haryana | 126.91 | 99.29 | 146.23 | 80.47 | 108.24 | 44.83 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 485.91 | 300.75 | 196.93 | 88.33 | 119.00 | 37.50 |
| 9. | J&K | 99.09 | 51.60 | 88.47 | 30.00 | 293.35 | 86.25 |